

SOUTH SLOUGH RESERVE MANAGEMENT COMMISSION

AGENDA

South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve
South Slough Interpretive Center
61907 Seven Devils Road - Charleston, Oregon

November 29, 2018

152nd REGULAR MEETING 1:00-4:00 P.M.

I. Call-to-Order

II. Introductions

III. Review of the 151st regular meeting minutes

IV. Public Input*

V. Old Business

1. Potential Transfer of Management of South Slough Reserve to University of Oregon – Bree
2. Winchester Creek Coho Spawning Reach Update – Bree
3. Younker Point Easement Application Update – Bree
4. Commercial Activities – Bree

VI. New Business

1. Fees Report and Proposed Revised Fee Schedule – Rebecca
2. PAC Grant, deadline February 2019 – Rebecca

VII. Presentations

1. Summer Camp 2018: The Cultivation of Wonder in the South Slough – Jaime/Deborah
Award-winning video by Mackinna Miles

VIII. Information Reports

1. Administration/Facilities
2. Education
3. Science
4. Coastal Training Program

IX. Adjourn

*Limited to 5 minutes each unless arranged in advance of the meeting.

** This meeting is being held in a facility that is accessible for persons with disabilities. If you need some form of assistance to participate in this meeting due to a disability, please notify Rebecca Muse at 541-888-5558 ext. 134 at least two working days prior to the meeting.

**SOUTH SLOUGH NATIONAL ESTUARINE RESEARCH RESERVE
MANAGEMENT COMMISSION**

South Slough Reserve Interpretive Center Auditorium
Charleston, Oregon

Minutes of the 151st Regular Meeting
July 19, 2018

Commission members present:

Vicki Walker, Chair

Bob Main

Trent Hatfield

Kris Wall

Chief Warren Brainard

David Kronsteiner

South Slough NERR staff and others present:

Bree Yednock

Rebecca Muse

Eric Dean

Amber Ross, DSL

Deborah Rudd

Ali Helms

Jonathan Forth

John Bragg

Kathy Andreasen

Jenni Schmitt

Jaime Belanger

Shon Schooler

Pat Burns, ODFW

Chris Claire, ODFW

Kiki Townsend
Ed Oswald

Mike Allman
Adam DeMarzo

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 p.m. by Vicki Walker Director of the Department of State Lands and Chair of the Commission.

INTRODUCTIONS

After welcoming everyone to the meeting, Chair Walker introduced Shon Schooler as the Reserve's new Research Coordinator. Amber Ross, Property Manager from DSL and Pat Burns and Chris Claire, both from ODFW were welcomed as guests.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Chair Walker asked if there was a motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Commissioner Brainard moved to approve and Commissioner Hatfield seconded. The motion carried.

PUBLIC INPUT

There was no public input.

OLD BUSINESS

Younker Point Easement

To date, the Department of State Lands has not received a complete application from the landowner requesting an easement to build a road through state lands purchased with NOAA grant funds. If the Department of State Lands receives an application deemed to be complete, Chair Walker said she would like to confer with the Commission, as the Commission has the right to make a recommendation to the Department. An emergency meeting may need to be scheduled if the matter needs to be dealt with before November 15. Ultimately, the decision would be made at the Director's discretion.

Amber Ross, State Lands property management, explained that the landowner purchased the property with encumbrances, as the adjoining property was acquired by the state with NOAA funds that stipulated the land was to be preserved and managed for conservation purposes. Commissioner Wall said that building a road through the property would be inconsistent with NOAA's intentions.

Brush cutting on state lands without permission was also discussed. The property line is established, and the landowner could be fined by DSL per statute.

Chair Walker thanked Bree Yednock, Commissioner Wall, and Amber Ross for their assistance and expertise on the issue.

Winchester Creek Coho Spawning Reach Update

On June 14, Jenni Schmitt and Bree Yednock met with the Coos County Commission. The presentation titled “South Slough Coho Status and Concerns” was shown and potential solutions were discussed such as increasing the width of the stream buffer on the only spawning creek in the basin or applying for a conservation easement grant. The county is in full compliance with ODF timber harvest regulations. A possible land trade was also considered.

ODFW project manager for Winchester Creek, Pat Burns and ODFW representative Christopher Claire briefed the South Slough Management Commission on the status of the coho smolt. The smolt numbers are depressed. ODFW regards a 150-foot stream buffer to be optimal and a 100-foot buffer is considered minimal. The issue is silt, not stream temperature. ODFW said that in general terms, when the canopy is removed there is increased sedimentation and when there is more canopy, there is less sedimentation.

Commissioner Main asked if there was any baseline data available for stream sedimentation. He asked if surveys were available for sedimentation in other streams in the Reserve to determine if the same thing is occurring as on Winchester Creek. He advocated the Reserve do more research on sediment load and compare Winchester Creek with other streams.

Chair Walker and Commissioner Kronsteiner expressed interest in a land trade with the County or trading some timber for an increase in the stream buffer. Commissioner Wall agreed that it would be a creative solution, and she didn't know if there would be any encumbrances. The Land Board would make the trade. Commissioner Main said the parcel of land in question is scheduled to be cut within the next five years. He said the County might be able to delay cutting if the stream surveys were completed

and he had the support of the other two county commissioners. A public meeting would also have to be scheduled.

Commissioner Brainard said more facts are needed to base a decision and the ODFW could provide more data. Commissioner Hatfield said he thought the science on the subject is settled.

Commissioner Main reiterated that Coos County depends on the revenue from the County forest to supplement the general fund budget. He added that as a Coos County Commissioner, he is limited on what he can agree to as there are two other Commissioners to weigh in. Reserve staff said they did not have the time and considerable resources it would take to survey the streams for sedimentation analysis.

Chair Walker asked if there was a motion for the Department of State Lands, the Reserve staff, and the County to negotiate a trade or coordinate outreach to entities that could provide grant funding for a conservation easement. Commissioner Kronsteiner moved and Commissioner Brainard seconded to approve the motion. Commissioner Hatfield voted in favor. Commissioner Main opposed the motion stating the lack of agreement on the sediment study.

NEW BUSINESS

Commercial Activities in the Reserve

Bree Yednock referred the Commission to the materials in the briefing packet. After Mr. Lacy's presentation, the Commission discussed the feasibility of crafting a permit application for Mr. Lacy to continue his tours on the Reserve. The Commission and staff agreed that it would be proper to charge a fee for the tours to enhance the education fund. It was brought to the attention of the Commission that other tour

groups charging the public have been operating in the waters of the Reserve without permission.

Commissioner Brainard asked if the Commission were to grant Mr. Lacy a permit to continue his tours on the Reserve, would the permit be exclusive? Rebecca Muse replied that any additional permit applications would have to comply with the mission of the Reserve. The Commission thanked Mr. Lacy for his presentation and comments and indicated if an agreement was drawn up, they would appreciate his input.

The Commission agreed to table the discussion until the next regular meeting in November and Bree Yednock would work on a draft agreement to present at that time.

Presentations

South Coast Tours – Dave Lacy

Dave Lacy explained to the Commission that until recently he was unaware of the administrative rules regarding commercial activities in the Reserve. He has been leading popular paddling tours for the public within the Reserve on the South Slough for six years. Last year he led 21 groups on tours.

Mr. Lacy said that he provides information to the public about the Reserve on the tours and they try to “leave no trace”.

Information Reports

Staff shared highlights and progress within their program areas.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Walker asked if there was a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Brainard moved and Commissioner Kronsteiner seconded. The motion carried, and the meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.